



# FACT SHEET

## SAGE MILL INDUSTRIAL PARK SUCCEEDS IN DIVERSIFYING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

### Office of Worker & Community Transition

#### Background and Challenges

In 1952, the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site (SRS) began producing tritium and plutonium for the Nation's nuclear weapons stockpile. In 1989, after more than 40 years of supporting the Nation's nuclear weapons complex, SRS changed its mission and refocused its work force toward activities and efforts associated with waste management and environmental restoration missions. These changes required extensive work force restructuring. Between 1993 and 1998, SRS experienced a reduction of approximately 6,700 prime contractor employees.



SKF Manufacturing, Inc. is just one of the advanced technology companies that will call the Sage Mill Industrial Park home.

#### The Path to Progress

The Department of Energy, the State of South Carolina, and the Westinghouse Savannah River Company undertook action to mitigate the downsizing of the Savannah River Site on the surrounding community. Historically, DOE funds were not used for "bricks and mortar" projects; however, this project required new and innovative methods to achieve success. DOE provided \$4.8 million in funding to enable necessary water and sewer system improvements to the SRS. DOE's Office of Worker and Community Transition partnered with the U.S. Department of Commerce to accomplish the task. As a result, the Sage Mill Industrial Park (Sage Mill) was created to function as the region's industrial park. Sage Mill has successfully attracted a number of corporations helping to diversify the local economy and alleviate the strain of the SRS work force restructuring.



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## Community Success Stories

The Sage Mill Industrial Park has dramatically increased the number of industries looking to establish a location in the southeastern United States. The establishment of Sage Mill was influential in attracting another major manufacturer, Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc. to relocate in the region (directly across from the Sage Mill Industrial Park). This investment by DOE serves as an example of how community assistance funds can diversify the economy of the communities surrounding DOE sites and lessen the impacts of DOE downsizing.

### *DOE Funds Create New Jobs and a new Location for Industry*

- SKF Manufacturing, Inc., the world's largest producer of ball and roller bearings for the automobile industry, opened its new plant in 1997 and currently employs 157 people. The plant manufactures wheel hubs for Plymouth and Dodge minivans and for Rockwell trucks. The long-term work force projections indicate a total of 275 new jobs will be created by the year 2000.
- Avondale Industries, a local fabric manufacturer, located their new state-of-the-art distribution center at Sage Mill. They currently employ 25 people, with a projected employment of 150 by the year 2001.



SKF Manufacturing, Inc. is the world's largest producer of roller bearings. These hub units are produced in their Aiken, South Carolina facility.



A view of the production line at SKF Manufacturing, Inc.

### Contact Information

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